



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
10 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. Burma

The Burmese are throwing out all Chinese Communist aid technicians. This move follows months of diplomatic bombast from Peking over anti-Chinese riots in Rangoon last summer. The Chinese, who now describe Ne Win in terms usually reserved only for US and Soviet leaders, will undoubtedly become even more shrill and perhaps will step up their public support for Burma's Communists.

3. Communist China

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4. Nigeria

Biafran leaders show no signs of giving up. A few Biafrans are still holding out in their capital of Enugu and Biafran troops have mounted small attacks elsewhere.

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5. Uruguay

At a late cabinet meeting last night, President Gestido finally moved to combat the Communist-inspired labor trouble plaguing Uruguay. Gestido declared a limited state of siege and took other security measures. Four cabinet members resigned in protest.

Gestido has made a good first step, but if he hopes to halt the country's decline, he will have to follow it up with politically unattractive and sorely needed economic reforms.

6. Czechoslovakia

The Czech Government and party leadership continues to deal ineffectually with a multitude of economic problems, intellectual discontent, and even some rumblings from the public.

Urban Czech youth and intellectuals are pushing for more freedom and in some instances virtually defying the government to do anything about it. The current fashion among the long-haired set in Prague, for example, is to wear US Army jackets complete with divisional insignia. Thunderings about "socialist morality" from above seem only to result in raising the mini-skirt level and in reducing the number of baths.

Solutions for these and other problems will be hard to find because the country's leaders are divided on how to deal with them. Party boss Novotny, who it is rumored will lose his party chairmanship, is fearful of an open fight in the party and has hesitated to initiate repressive measures that would upset the delicate balance between liberal and conservative elements within his regime.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only*

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The Hard Life of a North Vietnamese Soldier:
The personal history statement of a North Vietnamese soldier who recently rallied to the South Vietnamese Government in Quang Ngai Province provides what is probably a typical vignette of the hardships and anxieties borne by individual North Vietnamese who are sent to South Vietnam.

The soldier recounted that in early 1965 he was "very unhappy" when informed that he would have to go South to fight, chiefly because he felt that he might not return. Efforts by his family to have the assignment changed resulted only in his being accused of having "weak ideology." After a farewell visit to his family, which was "as sad as a funeral," the soldier left on his assignment.

While enroute to the South, the soldier received the impression that any fight there would be brief since he had been told that four-fifths of the country and three-fourths of the people had been liberated. His group was not warned of the potential hardships during the trek South. The long marches and constant rain were a great strain, especially while carrying a 65-pound pack. Many in the group, including this soldier, suffered from malaria from which three died and 12 had to be left behind.

The troops were warned that if they tried to desert, they would be sent back to the North where they would be humiliated and their families' lives probably affected. Nonetheless, four of the group deserted. After reaching the South, the soldier experienced a shortage of food and noticed that the "liberated area" was for the most part unpopulated wild country. Most of his associates now do not expect to return to the North but are resigned to being killed or maimed in combat.

*This report carries a second section on North Vietnamese Reflections of US Political Attitudes Toward the War.

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Sea Deliveries to North Vietnam in September:
For the third month in a row, cargo deliveries to North Vietnamese ports were lower than the unusually high monthly average set during the first half of the year. The drop-off has permitted a further reduction in the backlog of ships waiting in Haiphong to unload.

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Treatment of Prisoners: A captured North Vietnamese private who infiltrated South Vietnam early this year said during his interrogation that American prisoners in North Vietnam are generally well treated and receive a ration allowance three times that of a North Vietnamese soldier. The soldier did say, however, there had been some cases of mistreatment by local militia units making initial captures. All American pilots, he said, were sent to Hanoi.

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Still More Bloc Aid: Yesterday Czechoslovakia joined the parade of Communist countries announcing new economic agreements with North Vietnam. Two agreements, one for trade and the other for aid, were announced. The latter referred vaguely to "medical and technical aid, machinery, and other supplies."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

Viet Cong on "American Negroes' Struggle": A 30 September Viet Cong clandestine broadcast aimed at South Vietnamese Government troops cites the American Negroes' "struggle for democratic freedom" as an example for the Vietnamese. The broadcast states that recent uprisings in New York and Detroit show that the Negroes have already used and will continue to use violence to oppose their "barbarous repressions."

The broadcast notes that the Negroes have endured many hardships and states that the Vietnamese "should stand up and struggle for your own democratic freedoms." Only by resorting to "just force" as the American Negroes have done, according to the Viet Cong, will the South Vietnamese be able to "liberate" themselves from US "repressive force."

The "struggle" by the American Negroes "considerably contributes" to a "further increase" in US weakness, according to the Viet Cong. The broadcast cites recent demonstrations in Milwaukee and a protest meeting in Chicago as examples of the Negroes' "struggle." Noting that the Negroes have continued their efforts despite the "Johnson clique's farce" of signing many civil rights laws, the broadcast claims that many Negroes still cannot attend the same schools, take the same buses, go to the same theaters, or eat at the same restaurants as whites.

The broadcast also claims that Negro servicemen in Vietnam are not granted equal treatment. According to the Viet Cong, "everyone knows that American Negro youths are the first to be rushed to the South Vietnam battlefront." In addition, the broadcast asserts that "a number of Negro troops have been chained to their armored vehicles so they cannot escape death when their vehicles are set ablaze."

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